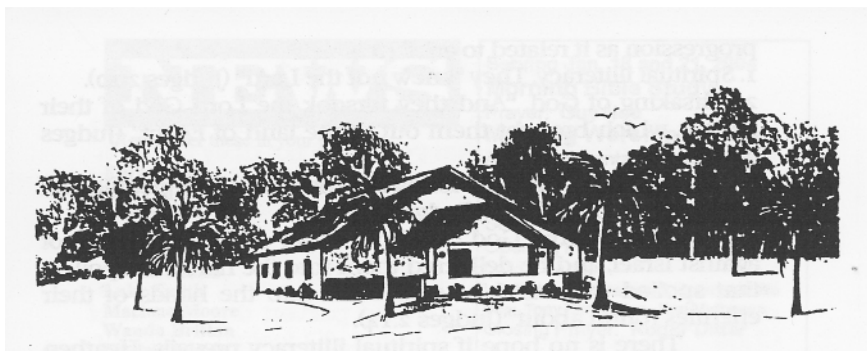




## **Cape Coral Church of Christ**

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

(239) 283-4880



<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

## **Schedule of Services**

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

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## **What Our Bible School Lacks!**

Frequently it is good to stand back and seek to look objectively at what is being done in the Lord's work and ask how it could be done better. It is good to consider what is good about a program and what is lacking. Following are some things we need to consider about our Bible school. It has some positives but it also has some negatives.

Certainly on the positive side, we may mention that the Bible school seeks to build a stronger faith in those who attend. We also recognize that it benefits us from the standpoint of fellowship. Christ desires His followers to build up one another and encourage one another. This can happen only when we "get together."

Another positive aspect of the Bible school is that it presents the story of God's love for you and me. Those who study the Bible prayerfully will see the love of God demonstrated again and again. Christ brought redemption and salvation as He preached the Word. All spiritual blessings are in Christ and we learn of these in Bible classes.

What is lacking in our Bible school? Sadly, it may be said that too many of our members are not present. The classes are a spiritual feast, but too many who should come do not! Is what is lacking in

our Bible school - **YOU?** Our classes are presented for your benefit. Come and take advantage of them and grow spiritually.

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## Wrapped in Light

When I read the Psalms, I often wonder if I really know how to praise God. David and other Psalters seemed to grasp the essence of their Creator far better than we have done. Their recognition of His presence and power, as well as His love and mercy, caused them to lift up their voices in hymns of praise with hearts of devotion.

One of those Psalms portrays the majesty of God by describing seven wonders of His creation. Following a declaration of God's greatness as one who is "clothed with splendor and majesty," King David outlines the various ways in which God has revealed Himself through His creation (Psalm 104).

First, he declares that God "wraps Himself in light as with a garment; He stretches out the heavens like a tent" (v. 2). The sky is filled with evidence of His glory. The Hebrew word for "wraps" suggest that God "darkens" Himself with light. His splendor is so wonderful that man cannot see it, but can only stand in awe of it. We look at His creation and marvel at what He has made. The psalmist was able to look beyond the creation to the glory of the One who made it.

The second wonder David mentions is the earth, around which He has set a boundary (vs. 5-9). In another psalm he declared "the whole earth is full of Thy glory." Next, he praises God for the water which God supplies to the earth and its inhabitants. When he looks at the grass and flowers and trees, he erupts in praise that the Lord has taken care of every need through massive vegetation. As one who spent many nights on the mountain ranges with the sheep he had shepherded, David couldn't forget the moon and the sun. Their radiant beauty was a constant reminder that God was near. The sea, "vast and spacious" (v.25), is structurally balanced with the celestial realm of creation.

The crowning part of God's creation is man himself, to whom He has given life and for which He deserves to be praised and worshipped. David concludes his thoughts by saying, "May the glory of the Lord endure forever."

## **Wants versus Needs**

I may want to accumulate all the physical things I possibly can – I need to realize that my life does not consist of the amount of the things that I own (Luke 12:15).

I may want to appear “sophisticated and wise” in my religious beliefs and practices – I need to hear “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2), and to take my own cross (Matt. 16:24).

I may want to spend all my time in leisure, “free from responsibility,” – I need to work and provide for my family (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8).

I may want to hear all “positive preaching” – I need to be reproved, rebuked, and exhorted (2 Tim. 4:2).

I may want to treat my children as “small adults” and be their “best friend” – I need to be their parent and properly discipline and train them before God (Eph. 6:4).

I may want to keep my total independence even though married – I need to remember the mutual dependence of husband and wife (1 Cor. 7:3; Col. 3:18).

I may become so accustomed to, and so enamored with this world that I want to live here forever – I need to remember that my citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

I may want to live a solitary Christian life – I need the church (1 Cor. 12:27).

I may want to assert my rights and privileges and live the way I want to – I need to remember that no man lives to himself and that one day every one of us will give an account of himself to God (Rom. 14:8, 12).

I may want to live my life without God – I need God (Psa. 46:1).

I may want to go to heaven under my terms – I need to follow God’s ways to get there (Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23).

I may want to give up when the going gets tough – I need to be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

I may want to please people – I need to please God (Gal. 1:10).

# Who Has the Time?

Most of us live time-conscious lives. We stick to tight schedules, glance at our clocks frequently, and hurry around to meet our appointments and deadlines. Time is certainly important, but the real value of time comes with the realization that our time here on earth is a countdown to eternity.

Since life is short (James 4:13-14), what should we be doing with our time? Jesus says to put the kingdom of God first in your priorities (Matt. 6:33). That means influencing and teaching the lost (Matt. 28:18-20). He wants them taught before time runs out (Titus 2:11-14; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).

What are you doing with your time?

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## One Step at a Time

One of the most vivid images in the Bible is what we read of in Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.” This presents a powerful picture, especially in the context of those who lived in biblical times.

In the times of the Psalmist, there were no powerful flashlights. The traveler carried a small oil lamp, whose flax wick gave off only a little light. There was enough to see by, but not enough to see very far down the path. There was basically just enough to take the next step or two without stumbling or falling.

What an appropriate reminder for us. The Word of God is a lamp to our path. It doesn’t illuminate far into our personal future, but it does shine in our present. God’s Word gives us the light to take our next step in life – and that’s all we need to keep from stumbling. If we fill our minds, hearts, and lives with God’s Word, we will always have the light we need to know what we must do next.

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“Marriage has in it less of beauty, but more of safety, than the single life; it hath not more ease, but less danger; it is more merry and more sad; it is fuller of sorrows and fuller of joys; it lies under more burdens, but is supported by all the strengths of love and charity; and those burdens are delightful. Marriage is the mother of the world, and preserves kingdoms, and fills cities and churches, and heaven itself “ – Jeremy Taylor (1613 - 1667).